

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DPW-01 DRC-01 /140 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSSAG NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065583

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, CA

SUBJECT: ICC

REFERENCE: A. VIENTIANE 2409 (NOTAL)

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B. VIENTIANE 2360 (NOTAL)

C. OTTAWA 0834
D. STATE 056168
E. VIENTIANE 2617 (NOTAL)

1. STATE OF PLAY REGARDING ICC REACTIVATION OR ADJOURNMENT
APPEARS TO BE AS FOLLOWS:

A. CANADA HAS MADE PUBLIC ITS PROPOSAL TO HAVE ICC/LAOS
ADJOURN SINE DIE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME DENYING ANY INTENTION
TO WITHDRAW UNILATERALLY. APPARENTLY THE CANADIANS WOULD BE
SATISFIED WITH A POSTPONEMENT OF THEIR ADJOURNMENT PROPOSAL
FOR FROM 60 TO 90 DAYS. THIS WOULD MOST LIKELY, HOWEVER,
REQUIRE A STRONG REPRESENTATION FROM SOUVANNA (REF C).

B. SOUVANNA HAS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE
CANADIAN MOVE BUT APPEARS TO BE FOCUSING ON THE PROBLEM OF
A REPLACEMENT RATHER THAN ON ANY EFFORTS TO INDUCE CANADIANS
TO STAY, EVEN FOR AN INTERMEDIATE PERIOD (REF A).

C. THE ONLY LAO PUBLIC REACTION WE ARE AWARE OF IS A PRESS
SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT SAYING THAT THE RLG "HAD NOT RECEIVED
ANY OFFICIAL INFORMATION REGARDING POSSIBLE GOC WITHDRAWAL,
BUT, IF IT WERE TO DO SO, THE GOVERNMENT COULD ONLY REGRET
SUCH A DECISION..." (PARA 9, REF B).

D. THE INDIANS SEEM TO BE HOLDING FAST TO THEIR VIEW THAT
THE ICC SHOULD STAY IN BUSINESS WITH OR WITHOUT THE CANA-
DIANS. THE POLES' INITIAL REACTION WAS NEGATIVE TO THE
CANADIAN MOVE BUT WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY REFINEMENT OR
ADVANCEMENT OF THAT POSITION.

E. AMONG CO-CHAIRMEN, THE BRITISH EXPRESSED THE SAME SUR-
PRISED CONCERN THAT WE FEEL. THE SOVIETS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE,
HAVE NOT REACTED PUBLICLY.

F. THE ICC MET LAST WEEK IN VIENTIANE MAINLY TO RECEIVE AND
PASS ON TO CO-CHAIRMEN THE LAO PROPOSAL FOR REACTIVATION.
THE ICC IS APPARENTLY AWAITING CO-CHAIRMEN REACTIONS AND
HOME GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE MEETING AGAIN, PRESUM-
ABLY IN MID-APRIL AFTER ARRIVAL OF NEW POLISH COMMISSIONER
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(REF C).

2. SINCE SOUVANNA HAS NOT YET MADE A PUBLIC RESPONSE
DIRECTLY TO THE CANADIAN PROPOSAL AND SINCE IT APPEARS THAT
ANY MOVEMENT IN THE CANADIAN POSITION WOULD REQUIRE A STRONG
SOUVANNA STATEMENT, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO REVIEW THE SITUA-
TION WITH SOUVANNA IN LIGHT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND EMBASSY
OTTAWA'S JUDGMENT THAT THE CANADIANS WILL REQUIRE A REPRE-

SENTATION FROM HIM TO MODIFY THEIR POSITION.

3. SOUVANNA SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE, OR HAVE MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGING THE CANADIAN ADJOURNMENT PROPOSAL, EITHER IN TERMS OF THE SIMARD DEMARCHE OR THE SHARP STATEMENT IN OTTAWA OR BOTH. HE SHOULD VOICE THE HOPE THAT CANADA CAN BE PREVAILED UPON TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE UNHAPPY TIMING OF THE DECISION. HE COULD ASK CANADA TO ACCEPT CONTINUED SERVICE ON THE ICC FOR A SPECIFIC TIME, SAY SIX MONTHS, AT THE END OF WHICH, AS IN VIETNAM, CANADA COULD RECONSIDER ITS PARTICIPATION ON THE BASIS OF ITS VIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ICC EFFORT. IF AT THAT TIME CANADA, ON THE BASIS OF THE SIX MONTHS EFFORT, STILL SAW NO VALUE IN ITS PARTICIPATION IT COULD AGAIN CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT OR DECLARE ITS UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL AFTER A REASONABLE PERIOD IN WHICH TO FIND A REPLACEMENT.

4. SUCH A REQUEST SHOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE CANADIA S TO REFUSE, ESPECIALLY IF THE 1962 GENEVA PARTICIPANTS LINE UP IN SUPPORT OF SOUVANNA. IF CANADA WOULD GO ALONG WITH SUCH A REQUEST IT WOULD PROVIDE A REASONABLY EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE ICC FOR THE PERIOD DURING THE FORMATION AND SHAKE-DOWN OF THE PGNU, AND FOR POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FOR POW RELEASES AND MIA INVESTIGATIONS.

5. FYI. WE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED THAT CANADIAN WITHDRAWAL WOULD CONFRONT US WITH A TWO-PARTY ICC WHICH FOCUSED ONLY ON SUPPOSED US "VIOLATION" OF LAO SOVEREIGNTY AND NEUTRALITY WHILE TURNING BLIND EYE TOWARD NVA ACTIVITIES. EVEN IF CANADIANS SHOULD BE REPLACED - AND THERE WOULD BE FEW VOLUNTEERS FOR SO THANKLESS A TASK - WE FEAR THAT EFFECTIVENESS OR EVEN-HANDEDNESS OF ICC WOULD PROBABLY
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SUFFER. END FYI. RUSH

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